

Carrying the Mission Forward



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When people think about Divine Word College or the former Divine Word schools across the country, they often picture young men preparing to become Divine Word Missionary Priests or Brothers. And certainly, this has always been the primary purpose of these institutions: to form men for vowed missionary life in the Society of the Divine Word, dedicated to service around the world.

At the same time, the story of Divine Word formation has always extended beyond ordination or brotherhood alone.

For generations, students arrived searching for God's direction. Some continued on to religious life. Others discerned calls to marriage, parish leadership, business, community service, or other forms of ministry. In recent decades, women religious studying at Divine Word College have also become part of that story, bringing what they learn back to strengthen their congregations and ministries.

Formed for Missionary Discipleship

What connects them is a missionary-centered education. Alumni often say their years with the SVDs shaped not only what they believed, but how they lived. They learned to express faith through compassion, service, concern for others, justice, and peace.

We have seen this in the lives of many alumni. Dave Mishur shares his love of Scripture through Biblical fiction writing. Jim Horn carried a spirit of service into a distinguished engineering career and parish involvement. William Purcell spent 45 years in education in Japan, helping build bridges across cultures. Their vocations may look different, but each reflects the same foundation.

A Legacy That Continues

In many ways, this is the true legacy of Divine Word formation. The goal is, first and foremost, to prepare priests and brothers for missionary service. At the same time, it is to form missionary disciples — people attentive to God's voice and willing to serve wherever they are called.

That mission continues today because of your support. The seeds planted here continue to bear fruit in parishes, families, classrooms, communities and ministries around the world — often in ways that may never fully be seen, but are deeply felt all the same.

